

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office action mailed March 8, 2010, which rejection was made final, applicant requests entry of the foregoing amendments, consideration of the following remarks and reconsideration of the rejections set forth in said office action. Claims 1, 13, 22 and 23 have been amended and claim 10-12 and 14-20 cancelled.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 12 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 10 and 12 have been cancelled and the limitations set forth therein incorporated into claim 1. Claim 22 has been amended to depend from amended claims 1 and further limits claim 1.

Applicants submit that in view of the indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 12 and 22 and the allowability of claims 24, upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-9, 13 and 21-24 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1-4, 7-11, 13, 21 and 23 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heffer (US3,850,668) in view of LaBarge et al. (US2004/00077494A) and Sharma et al (US 2007/00184208 A1) is moot in view of the above amendments and the examiners indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 5 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heffer '668, LaBarge et al.'494 and Sharma et al. '208 further in view of Hunt et al. (US 6,132,653) is moot in view of the above amendments and the examiners indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 6 under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Heffer '668, LaBarge et al. '494 and Sharma et al. '208 further in view of Iwasawa et al. (US 5,864,051) is moot in view of the above amendments and the examiners indication of allowable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing remarks, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-9, 13 and 21-24 of the present application are in condition for allowance and prompt favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted

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